

## **Community Development Advisory Committee Minutes**

**Date: March 7, 2016**

### **Member Attendees:**

Ms. JoAnne Hanrahan Mayoral Appointee, Chair  
Ms. Sharyon Gardiner Mayoral Appointee, Vice Chair  
Ms. Mary Ann Callahan, 1<sup>st</sup> District, Secretary  
Mr. John Young, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Mr. Sean Massey, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Ms. Majeedah Razzaq, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
Ms. Jen O'Brien, 5<sup>th</sup> District  
Mr. Jerry Kunkle 7th District  
Ms. Debra Hogan, Mayoral App.  
Ms. Meghan McGuinness, Member At Large

### **Staff Members Attending:**

Mr. Stephen Carson, Grants Administrator

### **Public Attendees:**

None

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Meeting called to order: 6:01 PM by the Chair in the Planning Department Conference Room

### **1. Agency Presentations:**

- a. **City of Binghamton Police Department Chief Joseph Zikuski** was introduced. Chief Zikuski indicated that 2015-2016 CDAC funds of approximately \$37,000 remain and will be used for walking patrols in targeted neighborhoods such as Thorpe, Edwards, Munsell and Liberty streets to provide the most effective use of those remaining funds. Chief Zikuski requested new funding for the successful program at the Binghamton Boys and Girls Club to augment the \$20,000 provided by Mayor David. Officers interact with youth by playing basketball with them as part of the program. The Police Department is also requesting funds to expand that basketball program at the Urban League and is proposing a new program called Coffee with a Cop that will enable police officers to meet one on one with community members. The BPD is also hoping to create a basketball program at Columbus Park that will require funding as well. Further, he said that the BPD will continue to seek to implement

new programs that will bring the best policing practices to the community. The Chief attended the NYCOM conference recently and pointed out that the Binghamton Police is ahead of similar communities in the State, and stated that cameras are now being used by officers and in police cars.

Mr. Kunkle asked about the current strength of the Police Department. The Chief replied that eight officers will be attending the Police Academy, and will not be available for duty during their attendance there and that two officers are leaving, with a possible third officer also going. The Chief indicated that the police are usually never at their full strength of 138.

Mr. Massey asked a question on why Department is not at full strength and how this affected overtime. Chief Zikuski responded that while 40 people recently took the Civil Service exam, 30 did not pass the physical and agility tests. There will be another test in September and every effort is being made to seek diversity in candidates, although the Chief had to say that efforts to find such diversity had not been successful to date. He said that officers will continue to reach out and identify diverse candidates. He added that tutorials are available to prepare for the tests but that they are often cost prohibitive. He said the current climate is not such that new candidates have been easy to find, but that recruiting and community policing remain important tasks for the Binghamton Police.

Ms. Hanrahan asked how much money the Department was requesting. The Chief replied that he was asking for \$40,000 to be used for overtime pay to add to the current \$37,000 for walking patrols, In addition he would request \$5,000 to \$10,000 more to be used for the programs he had already discussed.

Mr. Massey asked if the CDAC could be given specific figures for line item requests for the individual programs. He also asked if there were a plan to show the efficacy of the programs.

Ms. Hanrahan also asked of the \$5,000 to \$10,000 requested was not for overtime.

Ms. Gardiner stated it was her understanding that that money is in part for the expansion of the Urban League basketball program and Coffee with a Cop. To further clarify, Chief

Zikuski responded that Officer Art Williams has been at East Middle School but will be replaced soon. He also stated that officers are armed because of the danger present, but that the job of the BPD's SROs (school resource Officers) are to create relationships with the community, and that the BPD will continue to develop those relationships. There is doubt whether the SROs are creating strong relationships with the community as proposed. Nevertheless, Chief Zikuski hopes that SRO's develop strong relationships with students at school.

Mr. Kunkle stated that it was his impression that such programs as are being done are hard to quantify and that the \$10,000 is needed for those programs.

Ms. O'Brien said that the organizations with whom the BPD are working have measurement mechanisms that might be utilized and that such quantifications could lend further credibility to the BPD's efforts.

Ms. Hanrahan suggested that if the agencies working with the BPD could write letters of support it would be helpful to the process. The Chief indicated that he would try to provide them along with specific figures before the next CDAC meeting scheduled on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

## 2. Certifying Minutes

- a. CDAC Secretary, Mary Ann Callahan, approved the minutes presented to the members
- b. Voting to certify minutes was taken and was unanimous. The next minute certification will be made at the next meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup>. See Attachment A for February 16<sup>th</sup> Minutes.

## 3. Status of CDAC Member Appointments Update

- a. Ms. Meghan Mc Guinness has been appointed as Member At Large and Mr. Steven Comency has been appointed to represent the 6<sup>th</sup> District.

## 4. Public Hearing

The CDAC moved to City Council Chambers for the Public Hearing. Chairwoman Harahan welcomed those present and thanked them for being willing to lend their input. She asked those who

would be speaking to sign in and indicated that she would call them in order for presentations for five minutes maximum.

Presentations were made by the Life Choices Center, Family Planning of South/Central New York and Action for Older Persons. The Life Choices Center is a nonprofit company is to help men and women during unplanned pregnancies. It has three major programs: Smart Choices, Abortion Recovery program, and Positive Choices. It is a mentorship program to provide preparation for students on parenting during pregnancy. The Abortion Recovery program provides help for women with emotional trauma from making the choice of abortion. The Positive Choices program is a sexual risk reduction program and aimed to help young individuals avoid that risk. Social issues addressed by Mary are cyber bullying, teen pregnancies (risks and STDs), child pornography, and heroin addiction. Action for Older Persons is addressed as a community development effort to help provide more medical aid for older persons through one to one counseling for those eligible for Medicare.

See Attachment B for full speaker presentations of the Public Hearing

There being no more speakers, Chairwoman Hanrahan adjourned the Public Hearing at 7:10 PM.

The CDAC then discussed the April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ms. Hanrahan asked if detailed spreadsheets would be made available prior to the meeting. Mr. Carson replied that he would provide line items and budget amounts do that the member could compare.

Ms. Hanrahan also asked if copies of the presentation would be available so that members would have all the information they would need to come to the April meeting prepared. Mr. Carson indicated that they would be available online and that the minutes of the Public Hearing meeting would be supplemented by actual transcriptions of the speakers from the Public Hearing for the members. He further indicated that the next meeting will be the beginning of the specific allocation process.

Ms. Harahan asked that the members review all the information that would be forthcoming and come prepared with specific ideas of what the allocation advisement that the CDAC would be making, since the recommendations must be complete by May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### Adjournment

- a. After a motion was made by Mr. Massey and seconded by Ms. Gardiner was approved unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 7: 20 PM